

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/757,054

Applicant(s)

DE WILDE, ERIC D.

Examiner

Lam P. Pham

Art Unit

2636

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/14/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-14 allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no prior art fairly teach or suggest a power distribution unit (claim 1) useful in a truck tractor to apply electrical power to a selected one or more of a plurality of signal terminals of a tractor-mounted connector in a tractor-to-trailer electrical connection, the power distribution unit comprising a power bus adapted for connection to a power source, an output terminal corresponding to each signal terminal of the connector, a switch connected between each output terminal and the power bus, and an actuator associated with each switch and operable upon receipt of a respective control signal to operate the associated switch.

There is no prior art fairly teach or suggest a heavy duty truck tractor (claim 9) having a first multi-terminal electrical connector mounted in a rear wall of the tractor and co-operable with a second mating connector at an end of a multi-wire cable extendible to a trailer coupled to the tractor, the improvement comprising a power distribution unit in the tractor in association with the first connector and operable for supplying tractor battery power essentially directly to selected ones of the first connector terminals when desired, the power distribution unit comprising a power bus connected directly to the battery, a respective switch connected between the power bus and each one of the selected first connector terminals, each switch having an actuator, each actuator being a component of a respective control circuit powered by the battery

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and operable to generate an actuator command signal when it is desired to supply battery power to the respective selected one of the first connector terminals, and a common connection from the battery to a further terminal of the first connector.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Link et al. (US 5775712) disclose a method and apparatus to automatically convert trailer lights flashing hazard lights upon disruption of trailer lighting power supplied from a towing vehicle.

Walkington et al. (US 5604439) disclose a tractor/trailer lamp circuit continuity test device.

Gee et al. (US 5397924) disclose a truck tractor and trailer electrical communication system.

Swinford (US 5080594) discloses a pigtail connector with light.

Hargis (US 4857807) discloses an auxiliary light module for vehicles.

Holmberg et al. (US 3751060) disclose a tractor-trailer vehicle combination.

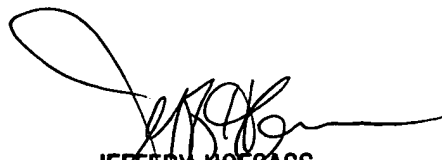
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lam P. Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-2977. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery A. Hofsass can be reached on 571-272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lam Pham  
March 6, 2006.



**JEFFERY HOF SASS**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**